

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 01/20459

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 : G01N35/02 G01N35/04 B01L9/00 B01L7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N B01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 054 263 A (SHOPES ROBERT JAMES ET AL) 25 April 2000 (2000-04-25) abstract; figures 1,3 column 4, line 45 -column 4, line 49 column 5, line 24 -column 5, line 30 column 5, line 44 -column 5, line 50 column 5, line 59 -column 5, line 67	1-5,9, 17-24,31
Y	---	16,29,33
Y	GB 2 343 873 A (BAYER AG ;JENOPTIK JENA GMBH (DE)) 24 May 2000 (2000-05-24) abstract; claims 1-3; figures 1,4 page 1, line 4 -page 1, line 31 page 9, line 35 -page 10, line 9	16,29,33
A	---	1,24
	---	-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

Date of mailing of the International search report

15 May 2002

28/05/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Runser, C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/20459

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,A	EP 1 088 590 A (TECAN AG) 4 April 2001 (2001-04-04) abstract; figure 4 column 3, line 10 -column 3, line 50 -----	1, 13, 24, 29, 31, 35, 36

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 01/20459

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
US 6054263	A 25-04-2000	US	5779981	A	14-07-1998
		US	5525300	A	11-06-1996
		EP	0733098	A1	25-09-1996
		JP	9510863	T	04-11-1997
		WO	9511294	A1	27-04-1995
GB 2343873	A 24-05-2000	DE	19854002	A1	25-05-2000
		US	6343906	B1	05-02-2002
EP 1088590	A 04-04-2001	EP	1088590	A1	04-04-2001
		JP	2001149801	A	05-06-2001
		NO	20004930	A	30-03-2001